[0073] **FIGS. 13*a*-13*b*** show an interactive program banner in accordance with a fifth embodiment of the invention. Like the conventional program banner of **FIG. 2**, the program banner **100** of **FIG. 13*a*** includes a program window **102** that displays information concerning the content, time and duration of the current program, which is typically obtained from program metadata for the current program. However, the banner **100** also includes a segment window **104** that displays content information about a segment of the program, which is obtained from segment metadata for the segment on which the cursor is located. When the banner is initially displayed, the cursor is located on the field of the segment that is currently being presented.

[0074] The banner **100** also includes a column **106** of segment fields **108** that provide descriptive and timing information for segments of the program. When the banner is initially displayed a cursor is located in the segment field column **106** on the field of the current segment, and a current segment marker independent of the cursor is also preferably displayed. In the segment field column **106** of **FIG. 13*a*** the current segment marker is provided as a distinct frame that surrounds the field of the current segment, while the cursor is indicated by highlighting the segment field on which the cursor is located. As shown in **FIG. 13*b***, the viewer may navigate the cursor up and down within the segment field column **106**, causing the segment window **104** to display segment information for the segment on which the cursor is located.

[0075] **FIGS. 14*a*** and **14*b*** show an interactive program banner in accordance with a sixth embodiment of the invention. The program banner of **FIG. 14*a*** and **14*b*** differs from the program banner of **FIGS. 13*a*** and **13*b*** in that the segment fields **108** of the segment field column **106** contain detailed descriptive information that was displayed in the segment window of the previous embodiment. As shown in **FIG. 14*b***, the viewer may scroll through the column of segment fields, with the current segment remaining highlighted. In the illustrated embodiment, the segment field column **106** contains a fixed number of segment fields **108**, and the fields are scrolled in response to cursor movement commands. This embodiment may be preferred in order to reduce the amount of space occupied by the program banner while allowing the viewer to browse through information about each program segment using a display that provides information about several segments simultaneously.

[0076] **FIGS. 15*a*** and **15*b*** show an interactive program banner in accordance with a seventh embodiment of the invention. The program banner of **FIGS. 15*a*** and **15*b*** uses an array of segment fields **110** to represent the segments of a program. The sizes of the respective segment fields are preferably proportional to the distances between their respective start times. The banner includes program description information **112** which is typically obtained from program metadata, and segment description information **114** which is obtained from segment metadata. When the program banner is initially displayed, the cursor is located in the field of the segment currently being presented, and above the cursor are provided the start time of the segment on which the cursor is located and the start time of the next segment. As shown in **FIG. 15*b***, the cursor may be moved among the various fields of the segment field array **110**, causing the segment information **114** to be updated to provide a description of the segment on which the cursor is located. This embodiment may be preferred for its reduced size.

[0077] **FIGS. 16*a*** and **16*b*** show an interactive program banner in accordance with an eighth embodiment of the invention. The banner of this embodiment may also be referred to as a progress bar, and may be displayed in response to a banner display command or may be displayed independently in response to a different command. The banner or progress bar of **FIGS. 16*a*** and **16*b*** includes an array of segment fields **110** that represent the segments of a program, with the sizes of the respective segment fields being proportional to the distances between their respective start times. The beginning and ending times of the program are indicated at the ends of the progress bar. The cursor is located on the field of the currently displayed segment and the beginning times of the present segment and the next segment are indicated above the cursor. Beneath the progress bar, descriptive information **114** about the current segment is provided. This data is obtained from the segment metadata. As shown in **FIG. 16*b***, the cursor may be moved to the various fields of the segment field array **110**, causing the segment information **114** to be updated to provide a description of the segment on which the cursor is located.

[0078] While the interactive program banners of **FIGS. 13*a*-16*b*** are currently preferred, it will be apparent that a variety of alterations may be made while retaining the primary features of these embodiments. For example, while some of these embodiments display program and segment information in distinct "windows," this manner of display is not critical, rather, it is important only to provide descriptive and timing information for individual segments in some portion of the banner. Further, while some of these embodiments display a detailed description for a single segment in response to movement of a cursor onto a field representing that segment, in other embodiments detailed information such as timing information or descriptive information may be provided for multiple segments or all segments, for example, as a simple static or navigable list of segment descriptive and timing information. In addition, further embodiments may be implemented in which segment information is not automatically displayed in the banner. For example, rather than automatically showing navigable segment fields and segment descriptions in the banner, the banner may simply provide a visible indication when segment information is available for the program. Subsequently, in response to a user command, segment information or segment fields may be displayed. Such information may be displayed within the banner, or may be displayed in a separate window that is presented in response to the user command. Further, that segment information may be navigable or passive, and may be formatted as segment fields or in another format, for example, as a simple list of segment descriptions and times. Additional graphical information may also be displayed in the banner, such as icons or symbols indicating the general subject matter of programs and segments. Such icons and symbols may be generated based on categories, keywords or other descriptive information in the program and segment metadata. Further, the banner may simply be comprised of segment descriptive or timing information that is displayed in response to a display command.

[0079] While the program and segment information displayed in the foregoing embodiments generally includes